Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, February 7, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

New Jersey:
As of February 2, 2005, 1,023 host trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB infestation site; 454 infested host trees and 569 high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continue to work this week in Joseph Medwick Park and in the residential areas of Carteret.

Program Officials with the USDA and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture meet this week to discuss the need to remove additional trees from the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB infestation site. Currently the program is removing approximately 4,000 trees; this number may double due to recent expansion of the quarantine. On December 27, 2004 the State of New Jersey expanded the ALB quarantined area from 10.5 square miles to 12.1 square miles. This amendment to the quarantine was due to the second infested tree, a red maple, found on Nov. 10, 2004, within the original quarantine area in the city of Rahway, NJ. Because this find was close to the western edge of the quarantine zone, the expansion was necessary.

DNA Study Results:
Two independent studies conducted by Cornell University and the General Administration of Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China, on DNA samples collected from adult Asian longhorned beetles at the Carteret infestation site have determined the DNA to differ from samples collected from Asian longhorned beetles in New York City, Jersey City, Chicago and Toronto. The studies found the Carteret beetles, like the Toronto beetles, to have their own unique DNA make up. This finding suggests the Carteret infestation to be a separate introduction into the United States. The origin of the Carteret ALB is still being investigated.

Additionally, a study being conducted by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service scientists, to age the Carteret infestation, is currently estimating the infestation to be six years old. The study dates the infestation back to 1998, prior to the implementation of the Solid Wood Packing Material Rule.

New York:
Federal, State, and New York City ALB program officials met this week to review the program's 2004 accomplishments and to finalize plans for 2005 activities. Chemical control activities will remain at the same level as 2004 with about 52,000 trees targeted for treatment. Surveys will continue to delimit the infestation, plus concentrate within the core areas and the difficult access properties. Regulatory will concentrate activities with high risk establishments such as waste haulers and debris transfer stations. Public outreach will concentrate within the targeted survey and treatment areas in order to maximize public support for the eradication efforts.

Illinois:
On Thursday, January 27, a meeting was held with ALB program officials to determine the process needed to de-regulate the satellite infestations around Bennsonville and Park Ridge, and portions of the Chicago quarantine including Kilbourn Park, Loyola and the Ravenswood areas. In attendance were representatives from the USDA, Illinois Department of Agriculture, City of Chicago and Cook County Forest Preserve District. All of the areas meet the protocol for de-regulation, a minimum of two years of negative survey. All agencies were in agreement to proceed with de-regulation plans. Once approved and finalized, the ALB regulated area in Illinois will decrease from 35 square miles to 9 square miles, which covers the Oz Park area of Chicago where infested trees were detected in 2003.
Contact: Christine Markham

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Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Michigan:
Delimitation surveys are completed for Presque Isle MI, Hillsdale, MI, and St. Clair, MI. Removal of these trees is expected to begin in February, as follows:
o Presque Isle – 88,000 trees
o Hillsdale - 19,865 trees
o St. Clair - 2,000 trees

Additional new county finds:
Six (6) EAB larvae were found in Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, MI and confirmed by Dr. James Zablotny on January 25, 2005. The specimens were collected from a site referred to the MDA Regional Office by MDA EAB Inspector Jeremy Huss, who spotted the suspect tree while attending a wedding in Traverse City.

One (1) EAB larva was found in Crystal, Montcalm County, MI and positively confirmed by USDA Identifier Dr. James Zablotny on January 31, 2005. Positive trees were found during detection work by MDA survey crews, who observed D-shaped holes, galleries, suckering, and bark splits in the tree.

Total counties with the presence or symptoms of EAB are 44 in Michigan, 3 in Indiana, and 7 in Ohio.
Contact: Deborah McPartlan

Cotton Pest Programs

Boll Weevil Eradication :
Cotton producers in the Northern Blacklands zone in Texas have voted to participate in the eradication program. The referendum passed with 84 percent of the votes being in favor of the program. This zone involves about 100,000 acres of cotton, and is the last of over 40 zones across the country to join the program. The zone covers the northeast portion of Texas, and as weevils are eradicated there, migratory pressure on Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana will be eliminated. Field operations will begin later this year.

Pink Bollworm Eradication:
Program cooperators met in northern Mexico recently to review significant program progress in that area, and to finalize plans for the coming season. Similar meetings will be held later this week, involving grower leaders from the El Paso/Las Cruces program area.
Contact: Bill Grefenstette

Gypsy Moth (GM)

An important collaboration has been achieved with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) whereby APHIS receives GM trap data for Japanese ports. The USDA team that has been in direct negotiation with MAFF for more than a year to develop the Agreement is composed of PDMP, QPAS, CPHST, and Forest Service gypsy moth specialists. Trap data for 2004 has been received and analyzed to determine the GM flight period for each port. Ships have been identified that called at the Japanese ports during the period of moth flight and which consequently should be inspected for GM egg masses upon arrival in U.S. waters. The Asian biotype of the gypsy moth (AGM) is prevalent in Japan, and an introduction would pose an especially high risk to north American forest and landscape resources due to the AGM's wide host range and the ability to spread rapidly as a result of the long flight range of the female. Agreement has been reached with MAFF for trapping in 2005, and an April meeting is scheduled to fine tune the data collection work plan. The assistance of APHIS International Services personnel at the Tokyo Mission has been indispensable during the activities that have resulted in the USDA-MAFF agreement and its implementation.
Contact: Weyman Fussell, (301) 734-5705

Noxious Weeds

January 24, Al Tasker and Dale Meyerdirk participated with the Eastern and Western Regional program staffs as well as SPHDs and SOSOs for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina in a teleconference to discuss allocation of funds for Tropical Soda Apple. PPQ plans to direct over $600,000 to TSA activities in FY 2005, including documentation of livestock TSA

status, biological control, other control activities, and survey/detection. This situation is made more complex because of the need for involvement by Veterinary Services and State Veterinarians on the animal part of this problem. Furthermore, the $350K identified for this activity is not sufficient to conduct a full "compliance" effort for the 13 states affected. Therefore, we discussed how these limited dollars might be allocated as a pilot project in four key states (AL, FL, GA, SC). Needs in others of the affected states would have to be provided for separately. The group agreed to start work on an implementation plan including how to organize and distribute the $350k mainly for documentation of livestock TSA status or possibly other TSA management activities. Each involved State Director will discuss the topic with the appropriate state cooperator to assess state needs. The State Directors will submit potential questions to Dave Prokrym (on detail to assist with biological control issues in the Eastern Region) so that we can create a uniform list of questions to ask our cooperators. The State Directors will then use these questions when discussing state needs. State Directors will submit questions in three categories (cattle management, biocontrol, other control) by January 28. The compiled list will be forwarded back during week of January 31, for immediate use. We should attempt to complete this task during the week of January 31, sending results to Anthony Man-Son-Hing (new ER Program Manager). A proposed implementation plan will be developed for presentation and discussion by the Regional Tropical Soda Apple Task Force.

Soybean Rust

On February 4, 2005, APHIS hosted a meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, to present a ***Coordinated Framework for Soybean Rust Surveillance, Reporting, Prediction, and Management.*** In response to the introduction of soybean rust (SBR) *Phakospora pachyrhizi*, into the United States, APHIS is facilitating the development of a Federal/State/industry coordinated framework for the 2005 growing season. The meeting was attended by 122 individuals from industry, federal agencies, state departments of agriculture, and universities. The goal of the framework is to provide stakeholders with effective decision support for managing soybean rust in soybean fields during the 2005 growing season. Specific components of the framework are to: (1) Deliver an operational surveillance and monitoring network to provide timely information of the extent and severity of soybean rust epidemics in the United States, Caribbean basin, and Central America; (2) Provide a web-based system for disseminating distributional information, forecasts, and decision criteria to stakeholders; (3) Develop decision criteria for fungicide application; (4) Provide predictive modeling of aerial transport of SBR spores from active source regions to soybean growing areas in the U.S.; and (5) Provide coordinated outreach to growers. APHIS is providing the leadership for the remainder of 2005 in this multi-agency collaborative effort for the Department, but will be developing a "transition plan" for CSREES and ARS to take on a more visible and active role in the future.